

OPINION 1534

Sternotherus Gray, 1825 and *Pelusios* Wagler, 1830 (Reptilia, Testudines): conserved

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the generic name *Sternotherus* Bell, 1825 is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

- (a) *Sternotherus* Gray, 1825 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Stejneger (1902), *Testudo odorata* Latreille, 1801;
- (b) *Pelusios* Wagler, 1830 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Fitzinger (1843), *Testudo subnigra* Lacépède in Bonnaterre, 1789 (valid name at the time of this ruling of *Testudo subnigra* Lacépède, 1788;
- (c) *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Testudo galeata* Schoepff, 1792;
- (d) *Kinosternon* Spix, 1824 (gender: neuter), type species by subsequent designation by Bell (1828), *Kinosternon longicaudatum* Spix, 1824.

(3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

- (a) *odorata* Latreille, 1801, as published in the binomen *Testudo odorata* (specific name of the type species of *Sternotherus* Gray, 1825);
- (b) *subnigra* Lacépède in Bonnaterre, 1789, as published in the binomen *Testudo subnigra* (specific name of the type species of *Pelusios* Wagler, 1830);
- (c) *galeata* Schoepff, 1792, as published in the binomen *Testudo galeata* (specific name of the type species of *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830);
- (d) *longicaudatum* Spix, 1824, as published in the binomen *Kinosternon longicaudatum* (specific name of the type species of *Kinosternon* Spix, 1824).

(4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:

- (a) PELOMEDUSIDAE Cope, 1868 (type genus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830);
- (b) KINOSTERNIDAE Agassiz, 1857 (spelling corrected; type genus *Kinosternon* Spix, 1824).

(5) The name *Sternotherus* Bell, 1825 as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

(6) The name STERNOTHAERINA Bell, 1825 (type genus *Sternotherus* Bell, 1825, suppressed in (1) above) is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2278

An application for the conservation of *Sternotherus* Gray, 1825 and *Pelusios* Wagler, 1830 (two turtle genera) was received from Drs H. M. Smith, R. B. Smith and D. Chiszar (University of Colorado, Colorado, U.S.A.) on 1 August 1978. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 37: 124–128 (June 1980). Notice of the

case was sent to appropriate journals. An extended comment by Drs R. Bour & A. Dubois (*Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France*) was published in BZN 41: 198–204 (November 1984). It contained additional and modified proposals, but was in basic agreement with the original application. In 1985, and again in 1986, Drs Bour & Dubois were sent some minor queries relating to their comment but no reply was received. After voting it was found that the reference for *subnigra* should have been as given below in the original references. This point is due to Lacépède's 1788 work being placed on the Official Index in 1987 (Opinion 1463), the reference below being that of the first validly published name for the taxon in question.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1988 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 37: 127, with some of the modifications proposed by Bour & Dubois. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1988 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 16: Bayer, Cocks, Corliss, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Melville, Mroczkowski, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 1: Starobogatov.

No votes were returned by Dupuis, Gruchy and Trjapitzin.

Cogger, Holthuis and Thompson were on leave of absence.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and Official Indexes by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

galeata, Testudo, Schoepff, 1792, *Historia testudinum iconibus illustrata*, p. 12.

KINOSTERNIDAE Agassiz, 1857, *Contributions to the natural history of the United States*, Monograph 1, parts 2 and 3, p. 346.

Kinosternon Spix, 1824, *Animalia nova, sive species novae testudinum*, p. 17.

longicaudatum, *Kinosternon*, Spix, 1824, *Animalia nova, sive species novae testudinum*, p. 17.

odorata, Testudo, Latreille, 1801, *Histoire naturelle des Reptiles*, vol. 1, p. 122.

Pelomedusa Wagler, 1830, *Natürliches System der Amphibien* . . . , p. 136.

PELOMEDUSIDAE Cope, 1868, *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, 1868: 119.

Pelusios Wagler, 1830, *Natürliches System der Amphibien* . . . , p. 136.

STERNOTHAERINA Bell, 1825, *Zoological Journal*, 2: 302.

Sternothaerus Bell, 1825, *Zoological Journal*, 2: 305.

Sternotherus Gray, 1825, *Annals of Philosophy*, (2)10: 211.

subnigra, Testudo, Lacépède in Bonnaterre, 1789, *Tableau encyclopédique et méthodique des trois règnes de la nature; erpétologie*, p. 30.